ICS-209: When to Report Wildland Fire Incidents

All wildland fires are managed under one or more strategies, which may vary over time. To accurately report significant fires that are not *fully suppressed*[1] on the ICS-209 form requires a new approach to how fires are reported.

The minimum national requirements for submitting an ICS-209 haven't changed. An ICS-209 is required for any fire under a full suppression management strategy that exceeds 100 acres in timber (fuel models 8-13), 300 acres in grass and brush (fuel models 1-7), or has a Type 1 or 2 incident management team assigned. (*Geographic Areas and agencies may have more stringent reporting requirements.*) Wildland fires being managed under multiple strategies may, or may not, require an ICS-209 to be submitted daily, depending on the size and complexity of the incident. The attached decision matrix and this document provide the basic guidelines for when an incident should submit an ICS-209 report.

When an emerging or ongoing fire meets the minimum large fire criteria outlined above (and in the National Interagency Mobilization Guide), the management strategy or strategies employed at the time will dictate the frequency of ICS-209 reporting. An initial ICS-209 should always be done when a fire meets national large fire criteria. After that, the frequency of ICS-209 reporting will vary with the strategies employed. Below are examples of when an ICS-209 report should be submitted.

Example 1.
A full suppression fire meeting large fire criteria should submit an ICS-209 daily until containment is achieved. A final ICS-209 should be completed at containment (a *second* final ICS-209 may also be done when the fire is controlled).

Example 2.
A fire managed under multiple strategies with a Type 1 or 2 incident management team assigned should submit an ICS-209 daily until containment is achieved, or the team is released.

Example 3.
A fire managed under multiple strategies with a commitment of national resources exceeding 72 hours should submit an ICS-209 daily until the number of resources declines below the minimum level outlined in the matrix.

Example 4.
A complex of fires managed under multiple strategies should submit an ICS-209 report daily until containment is achieved for all fires within the complex. If the complex is dissolved, ICS-209 reports for individual fires should be submitted based on the other criteria in the matrix.

Example 5.
A single large fire, or complex of fires, experiences a significant event or change should submit an ICS-209 report daily until the event or change has passed, diminished, or no longer affecting the

incident. Significant events include severe weather events, large increase in resources - especially national resources, large acreage growth, or impacting high value resources.

Example 6:
A large fire managed under multiple strategies that does **not** have a significant number of resources, or national resources assigned (see definitions below), and is **not** experiencing large acreage gains, should submit an initial ICS-209. After that, the fire shall be reported weekly (usually Thursday *), unless more stringent guidelines are specified by the Geographic Area Interagency Mobilization Guide, until the fire is contained. A final ICS-209 shall be completed at full containment.
* Weekly ICS-209 updates should be submitted by Thursday during periods when the national Incident Management Situation Report is published weekly on Friday (usually winter months).

Management strategies include the following:
- Monitor
- Confine
- Point Zone Protection
- Full Suppression

Definitions:
Significant number of resources is defined as non-local resources that are required to manage an incident that exceed the capacity of the local unit.

Significant commitment of national resources is defined as one or more Type 1 crews, one or more fixed wing or rotor wing aircraft.

Monitor is the systematic process of observing, collecting and recording of fire-related data, particularly with regards to fuels, topography, weather, fire behavior, fire effects, smoke, and fire location. This may be done onsite, from a nearby or distant vantage point in person or using a sensor, or through remote sensing (aircraft or satellite).

Confine is to restrict a wildfire to a defined area, using a combination of natural and constructed barriers that will stop the spread of the fire under the prevailing and forecasted weather conditions until out. This means, "some action is or has been taken" (line construction, bucket drops, etc.) to suppress portions of the fire perimeter.

Point or Zone Protection involves protecting specific points from the fire while not actively trying to line the entire fire edge. Points being protected may be communities, individual homes, communication sites, areas of high resource value, etc.

Full Suppression implies a strategy to "put the fire out" as efficiently and effectively as possible, while providing for firefighter and public safety. To complete a fireline around a fire to halt fire spread, and cool down all hot spots that are immediate threat to control line or outside the perimeter, until the lines can reasonably be expected to hold under foreseeable conditions. Synonymous with "Full Perimeter Containment" and "Control."

[1] "Full Suppression" implies a strategy to "put the fire out," as efficiently and effectively as possible, while providing for firefighter and public safety. Synonymous with "Full Perimeter Containment" and "Control."

The ICS-209 blocks highlighted in yellow (below) meet the minimum national requirements for incidents managed under Monitor, Confine, and Point Zone Protection strategies.

INCIDENT STATUS SUMMARY (NIMS ICS 209)

*1. Incident Name:			*2. Incident Number:	
*3. Report Version (check one box on left): ☐ Initial ☐ Update ☐ Final	Rpt # (if used):	*4. Incident Commander(s) & Agency or Organization:	5. Incident Management Organization:	*6. Incident Start Date/Time: Date: _____ Time: _____ Time Zone: _____
7. Current Incident Size or Area Involved (use unit label – e.g., "sq mi," "city block"):	8. Percent (%) Contained or Completed (circle one):	*9. Incident Definition:	10. Incident Complexity Level:	*11. For Time Period: From Date/Time: _____ To Date/Time: _____

Approval & Routing Information

*12. Prepared By: Print Name: _____ ICS Position: _____ Date/Time Prepared: _____	*13. Date/Time Submitted: Time Zone:
*14. Approved By: Print Name: _____ ICS Position: _____ Signature: _____	*15. Primary Location, Organization, or Agency Sent To:

Incident Location Information

*16. State:	*17. County/Parish/Borough:	*18. City:
19. Unit or Other:	20. Incident Jurisdiction:	*21. Incident Location Ownership (if different than jurisdiction):
* 22. Longitude (indicate format): Latitude (indicate format):	23. US National Grid Reference:	24. Legal Description (township, section, range):
*25. Short Location or Area Description (list all affected areas or a reference point):		26. UTM Coordinates:
27. Note any electronic geospatial data included or attached (indicate data format, content, and collection time information and labels):		

Incident Summary

*28. Observed Fire Behavior or Significant Events for the Time Period Reported (Describe fire behavior using accepted terminology. For non-fire incidents, describe significant events related to the materials or other causal agents):

*29. Primary Materials or Hazards Involved (hazardous chemicals, fuel types, infectious agents, radiation, etc.)**:**

30. Damage Assessment Information (summarize damage and/or restriction of use or availability to residential or commercial property, natural resources, critical infrastructure and key resources, etc.):	A. Structural Summary	B. # Threatened (72 hrs)	C. # Damaged	D. # Destroyed
	E. Single Residences			
	F. Nonresidential Commercial Property			
	G. Other Minor Structures			

Additional Incident Decision Support Information

31. Public Status Summary:	A. # This Reporting Period	B. Total # to Date	32. Responder Status Summary:	A. # This Reporting Period	B. Total # to Date
C. Indicate Number of Civilians (Public) Below:			*C. Indicate Number of Responders Below:*		
D. Fatalities			D. Fatalities		
E. With Injuries/Illness			E. With Injuries/Illness		
F. Trapped/In Need of Rescue			F. Trapped/In Need of Rescue		
G. Missing *(note if estimated)*			G. Missing		
H. Evacuated *(note if estimated)*			H.		
I. Sheltering in Place *(note if estimated)*			I. Sheltering in Place		
J. In Temporary Shelters *(note if est.)*			J.		
K. Have Received Mass Immunizations			K. Have Received Immunizations		
L. Require Immunizations *(note if est.)*			L. Require Immunizations		
M. In Quarantine			M. In Quarantine		
N. Total # Civilians (Public) Affected:			*N. Total # Responders Affected:*		

33. Life, Safety, and Health Status/Threat Remarks:			*34. Life, Safety, and Health Threat Management:	A. Check if Active	B. Notes
			C. No Likely Threat		
			D. Potential Future Threat		
			E. Mass Notifications in Progress		

	F. Mass Notifications Completed		
	G. No Evacuation(s) Imminent		
	H. Planning for Evacuation		
	I. Planning for Shelter-in-Place		
35. Weather Concerns (synopsis of current and predicted weather; discuss related factors that may cause concern)**:**	J. Evacuation(s) in Progress		
	K. Shelter-in-Place in Progress		
	L. Repopulation in Progress		
	M. Mass Immunization in Progress		
	N. Mass Immunization Complete		
	O. Quarantine in Progress		
	P. Area Restriction in Effect		

*36. Projected Incident Activity, Potential, Movement, Escalation, or Spread and influencing factors during the next operational period and in 12-, 24-, 48-, and 72-hour timeframes:

12 hours:

24 hours:

48 hours:

72 hours:

Anticipated after 72 hours:

37. Strategic Objectives (define planned end-state for incident)**:**

*38. Current Incident Threat Summary and Risk Information in 12-, 24-, 48-, and 72-hour timeframes and beyond. Summarize primary incident threats to life, property, communities and community stability, residences, health care facilities, other critical infrastructure and key resources, commercial facilities, natural and environmental resources, cultural resources, and continuity of operations and/or business. Identify corresponding incident-related potential economic or cascading impacts.

12 hours:

24 hours:

48 hours:

72 hours:

Anticipated after 72 hours:

39. Critical Resource Needs in 12-, 24-, 48-, and 72-hour timeframes and beyond to meet critical incident objectives. List resource category, kind, and/or type, and amount needed, in priority order:

12 hours:

24 hours:

48 hours:

72 hours:

Anticipated after 72 hours:

40. Strategic Discussion: Explain the relation of overall strategy, constraints, and current available information to:

1) critical resource needs identified above,

2) the Incident Action Plan and management objectives and targets,

3) anticipated results.

Explain major problems and concerns such as operational challenges, incident management problems, and social, political, economic, or environmental concerns or impacts.

41. Planned Actions for Next Operational Period:

42. Projected Final Incident Size/Area (use unit label – e.g., "sq mi"):

43. Anticipated Incident Management Completion Date:

44. Projected Significant Resource Demobilization Start Date:

*45. Estimated Incident Costs to Date:

46. Projected Final Incident Cost Estimate:

47. Remarks (or continuation of any blocks above – list block number in notation):

Incident Resource Commitment Summary

48. Agency or Organization:	49. Resources (summarize resources by category, kind, and/or type; show # of resources on top ½ of box, show # of personnel associated with resource on bottom ½ of box):	50. # of Personnel not assigned to a resource:	51. Total Personnel (includes those associated with resources – e.g., aircraft or engines –and individual overhead):
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52. Total Resources — resources			
personnel			

53. Additional Cooperating and Assisting Organizations Not Listed Above: